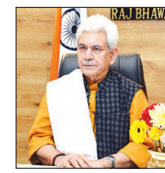


# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K  
@OfficeOfLJandK



**We must empower individuals and institutions to confront emerging challenges head-on, so that India's dream of becoming the world's greatest nation is realised. Called upon universities & institutions to join hands with the ISTD to give concrete shape to this resolve.**

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## Anxiety Continues To Mount As Students Remain Stranded In Iran



JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** Anxiety continues to mount among families as a significant number of Indian students remain stranded in Iran due to slow issuance of exit codes, mounting financial hardships, and growing uncertainty over their return.

According to details available, the evacuation process is going on at a slow pace, with only 6 to 10 students receiving exit clearance per day.

This delay has left many students in a precarious situation, with several already missing scheduled flights and incurring financial losses, including the Rs 10,000 visa fee.

The situation has become more distressing as desperate students are now attempting alternative routes, travelling from the Azerbaijan-Iran border towards the Armenia-Iran border in hope of securing quicker exit approvals.

Officials said that at least 52 students have expressed

their inability to leave immediately due to acute financial constraints. Many of them had their flight tickets cancelled after failing to receive exit codes on time, resulting in heavy monetary losses and leaving them with no immediate means to arrange fresh travel.

"These students are facing serious financial distress and have requested the Indian Embassy to allow them to continue staying in the accommodations that were provided earlier," they said.

However, the embassy has informed them that the rooms are now required for other Indian nationals awaiting evacuation, and the students have been asked to vacate, further compounding their difficulties.

Despite daily evacuations, an estimated 150 to 200 students are still believed to be stranded across different parts of Iran. Adding to the concerns, some students from Golestan University of Medical Sciences have reported

ISTD's Jammu Chapter will play a crucial role in strengthening the learning and development ecosystem

Asked ISTD's Jammu Chapter to focus on job creation and entrepreneurship

We must empower individuals and institutions to confront emerging challenges head-on

Directed stakeholders to prioritise collaboration and create an environment where a strong professional community is built

People from different sectors must come together to deliberate, share experiences, and jointly find solutions

## J&K's Rapid Growth Possible Only Through Collective Efforts: LG Sinha

Inaugurates Indian Society For Training & Development's Jammu Chapter

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the stakeholders to prioritise collaboration and create an environment where a strong professional community is built through networking, best practices, national and international exposure, and joint training programmes.

"Today's challenges are complex and multi dimensional. Their solution is possible only through collective effort and we must focus on this to actively drive Jammu Kashmir's rapid growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that people from different sectors must come together to deliberate, share experiences, and jointly find solutions. He said, through cooperation and dialogue we can forge a strong, inclusive model of development for the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Indian Society



lenges but it is also brimming with opportunities. We must ensure we are ready to seize the new opportunities," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the purpose of education is not merely to impart knowledge, but to pre-

enhance productivity.

We must train our farmers in modern technology, scientific methods, and resource management to understand climate change, water crisis, and soil quality. At the same time, we must train them to produce more crops

## LG Greets People On Ram Navami

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, which will be celebrated tomorrow.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "On the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all.

The festival commemorates the sacred birth anniversary of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram, the epitome of virtue and righteousness. His exemplary life stands as a timeless testament to the enduring principles of compassion, humility, unwavering commitment to truth, selfless dedication to duty and the discipline.

The sacred occasion of Ram Navami inspires us to follow Prabhu Shri

## Rain, Snow Likely In J&K From March 26 Onwards: MeT



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Wednesday predicted fresh spells of rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir from March 26 onwards.

An official of the MeT Centre said that the weather is expected to remain largely dry till the evening of March 26, after which light rain, snow, thunder and gusty winds are likely at many places.

"A more active weather phase is predicted between March 29 and 30, with generally cloudy conditions and the possibility of light to moderate rain in plains and snowfall over higher reaches at several locations. Thunder and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph may continue till the forenoon of March 31," the official added.

"On March 31, the region is likely to witness generally cloudy skies with brief spells of light rain or snow at scattered places, while partly to generally cloudy conditions are expected

## Div Com Denies Lockdown Rumours In Kashmir, Says Stocks Adequate

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Dismissing rumours about a possible lockdown, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir Anshul Garg on Wednesday said there is no such proposal under consideration. He urged people not to panic and assured that stocks of essential commodities are sufficient and being closely monitored.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, the Div Com said that misinformation was being spread regarding a lockdown. He clarified that no such decision has been taken by the government.

"Many rumours are being circulated, but there is no update regarding any lockdown. If any such decision is taken, it will be officially communicated by the Government of India or the Prime Minister. People should not panic," he said.

He said the administration is closely monitoring



the availability and distribution of essential supplies and ensuring that there is no shortage in the Valley. "Stocks of essential commodities are sufficient, and their supply is being continuously monitored," he said.

Warning against rumour-mongering, Garg said strict directions have been issued to deal with those spreading misinformation. "Action will be taken against anyone found indulging in spreading rumours. People should rely only on official

## Amid Rumours, Panic Buying Grips Srinagar Fuel Stations

There's No Shortage, Assures Div Com ; Urges People To Remain Calm

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Despite authorities reiterating that fuel stocks are adequate and there is no cause for alarm, panic buying of fuel gripped several parts of Srinagar on Wednesday, as people were seen carrying cans and containers to petrol pumps amid rumours of a possible shortage.

Visuals accessed, showed commuters filling petrol in plastic cans and bottles at fuel stations, reflecting anxiety triggered by unverified information circulating on social media.

"Heavy rush was witnessed at Karan Nagar, M A Road, Solina, Batmaloo, Ali Jan road, Zakoora and Munawarabad, where long queues of vehicles formed since morning. They said every petrol



pump in Batmaloo witnessed heavy rush, with people waiting for hours to get petrol," a witness said.

"There was an unusual rush. People were not just filling vehicles but also stocking fuel in containers, fearing shortages," he said.

Another commuter said panic spread quickly across areas. "As soon as rumours spread, people rushed to pumps. Within hours,

queues became very long," he said. Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg later in the day dismissed the rumours and assured that there is "no shortage of fuel or essential commodities."

"Stocks are adequate and are being continuously monitored. There is no need to panic. People should not believe in

## CS Pushes For Time-Bound Overhaul Of Recruitment Rules In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the current status and expedite the update of Recruitment Rules (RRs) across various departments of the Union Territory, with a strong emphasis on ensuring transparency, efficiency and employee welfare in public administration.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, along with Administrative Secretaries of other departments.

While underscoring the importance of timely finalization of Recruitment Rules, the Chief Secretary directed all Administrative Secretaries to work in close coordination with the ARI & Trainings Department to complete the process within a defined

timeframe. He stressed that updated and well-structured Recruitment Rules are crucial for ensuring a transparent, merit-based and efficient recruitment framework, besides facilitating the prompt filling of vacancies across departments.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards employee welfare and administrative efficiency, the Chief Secretary issued clear instructions that the entire exercise must be pursued in a mission mode, eliminating delays and ensuring uniformity in recruitment processes across departments.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Shah Kamili, informed that the initiative marks a significant shift towards digital governance. She apprised that a dedicated online



## What Centre's Proposal To Increase Seats And Implement Women's Reservation Means For J&K?

UMER MAQBOOL

**SRINAGAR:** As the Union Government is contemplating an increase in the strength of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats across states and Union Territories to implement political reservation for women ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha polls, the plan, if implemented, will significantly overhaul politics in the Union Territory.

The Centre is toying with the idea of increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies of States and Union Territories by 50 percent.

Applying this formula, the strength of Assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir would rise from 90 to 135, while the Lok Sabha seats would increase from five to seven

or eight. Out of the total seats, the Centre plans to reserve 33 percent for women. This would mean 45 seats reserved for women in the J&K Assembly, and two seats in the Lok Sabha if the number of seats is increased to seven, or three seats if it goes up to eight.

The Centre is already trying to build consensus across the political spectrum for making legal changes to ensure political reservation for women becomes applicable before the 2029

Lok Sabha polls. It is holding consultations with different parties, including opposition parties in the Lok Sabha.

The National Conference, the only regional party with representation in Parliament, says it has not been consulted by the Union Government on the matter.

"No such consultation has been held with us," NC's

Rajya Sabha MP Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan said. He said he participated in a meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc over the issue.

"It was decided in the meeting that the Centre should convene an all-party meeting on the proposed move to explain the contours of the proposed legislations and provide clarity on it," he said.

The proposal, if implemented through legal changes, would also apply to the J&K Assembly polls in 2029. The current term of the Assembly is set to expire on November 3, 2029.

If the Centre is able to pass the proposed legislations, it would immediately



## Over 4,400 Kg Of Narcotics Seized In J&K In 2025: MHA

RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday said that 4,491 kilograms of narcotic substances were seized in Jammu and Kashmir during 2025.

Replying to an unstarred question raised by Shyamkumar Daulat Barve in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, said that drug seizures in Jammu and Kashmir stood at 11,066 kg in 2023, 5,708 kg in 2024, and 4,491 kg in 2025, as per data compiled by the Narcotics Control Bureau.

The government informed the House that foreign-based elements are involved in facilitating narco-terrorism by pushing narcotics across borders to generate funds for terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

It further said that 292 drones/ unmanned aerial vehicles were seized or recovered along the Indo-Pakistan border in 2025, indicating the growing use of drones for cross-border smuggling. The minister also

## Additional 300 MW Power Anticipated For J&K

RIYAZ BHAT

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir is likely to require additional 300 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours over the coming three years.

According to the official documents available, from the upcoming financial year 2026-27, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 3813 MWs of power during the peak demand.

The authorities have further projected that in the financial year 2027-28 Jammu and Kashmir will require 3964 MWs of electricity during the peak hours followed by 4117 MWs of energy in the financial year 2028-29.

Apart from peak demand, the authorities have projected that there will be an elec-

trical energy requirement of 23,372 Million Units (MU) in the financial year 2026-2027.

It also said that in the year 2027-28, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 24,559 MU of energy followed by 25,780 MU in the year 2028-29.

Earlier as reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

The official documents in this regard reveal that it has considered electrical energy requirement projections as per J&K State Load Despatch Center (SLDC).

The documents further reveal that the SLDC has projected that the



# NIT Srinagar PhD scholar becomes first IndiaAI fellow; J&K enters list

Dir, Registrar extends congratulations to scholar on prestigious fellowship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A PhD scholar from the National Institute of Technology Srinagar has become the first recipient of the prestigious IndiaAI Research Fellowship from the Institute as well as from Jammu and Kashmir.

Saqib Asgar Kanth is among 146 candidates selected across the country, with representation from only three National Institutes of Technology (NITs), stressing the highly competitive nature of the fellowship. He is pursuing his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr Neeraj Gupta, Assistant Professor at Electrical Engineering Department of the Institute.

Dr Neeraj Gupta said Kanth is the first and only scholar from NIT Srinagar to have received the fellowship so far, marking a notable addition to the institute's academic and



research credentials. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated the scholar and said that this achievement reflects the growing research ecosystem at the institute and our sustained focus on promoting innovation in emerging and impactful domains. It is a matter of pride for the entire institution, he said. "Such recognitions highlight the academic excellence and research potential of our scholars. It also reinforces the insti-

tute's commitment to contributing meaningfully to national missions in areas like artificial intelligence and sustainable energy," Prof. Kanaujia said. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said that it is encouraging to see our scholars making a mark at the national level. "This achievement reflects the strong academic foundation at NIT Srinagar and our commitment to nurturing talent in emerging and socially relevant fields," he added.

The IndiaAI Fellowship, a flagship initiative under the IndiaAI Mission, is aimed at supporting outstanding doctoral researchers working in frontier areas of artificial intelligence.

It provides a monthly stipend, annual research grant, and support for presenting work at international conferences, thereby fostering high-quality research and innovation in the country.

Kanth's research focuses on the integration of artificial intelligence with renewable energy systems, with the objective of developing intelligent, adaptive, and sustainable solutions for next-generation power grids.

His work is expected to contribute to enhancing efficiency, reliability, and scalability in clean energy systems, a sector that is increasingly critical in the context of climate change and growing energy demands.

# DC Sgr reviews progress of agricultural projects under HADP, JKCIIP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** To review the progress achieved under key Agriculture and allied sector schemes including HADP, JKCIIP, and KKGs in the district, a meeting of line Department Officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here Wednesday.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi and Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, District Programme Officer NRLM and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive sector-wise review of achievements and ongoing interventions under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors



Project (JKCIIP) aimed at enhancing productivity, strengthening value chains, and improving income of the farmers.

He also reviewed Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) aimed to ensure that the intended benefits reach farmers at

the grassroots level.

On the occasion, the DC stressed that all eligible farmers in the District must be covered under these schemes and instructed officers to further intensify outreach efforts to cover left out beneficiaries of district in a time bound manner. He also emphasized on

increasing farmer enrolment under PMFBY to provide insurance coverage against crop losses.

Reviewing the functioning of KKGs, the DC called for further strengthening of these centers to ensure efficient and seamless delivery of services to the farming community.

The Officers of Agriculture and allied departments were also directed to fast-track pending cases, ensure timely disbursement of benefits and facilitate improved access to institutional credit.

The DC underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to clear pendency, if any and enhance overall implementation efficiency. He further instructed officers to expedite the processing of cases in accordance with the laid-down guidelines to ensure that benefits are extended to farmers within the stipulated timelines.

During the meeting, the DC acknowledged the line departments for their continued progress and urged them to sustain and further intensify their efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage, so that no eligible farmer in the district is deprived of the benefits.

# Deputy Chief Minister greets people on Ram Navami

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday extended his warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami.

He said that the festival holds immense religious and cultural significance and is celebrated with great fervour and devotion across Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister

expressed hope that the sacred occasion would usher in the blessings of Lord Rama, bringing peace, prosperity, and well-being to all.

He further stated that Ram Navami serves as a reminder of the timeless values of righteousness, compassion, and truth, and hoped that the festival would strengthen the spirit of love, harmony, and brotherhood among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Satish Sharma extends Ram Navami greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, IT and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami.

In his message, the Minister highlighted the immense religious and cultural significance of the festival, which commemorates the birth of Lord Rama, an embodiment of righteousness, virtue and ideal leadership. He said that Lord Rama's life and teachings continue to serve as a guiding force for the humanity, inspiring people to uphold truth, justice, compassion and humility in all spheres of life.

Satish Sharma said that Ram Navami is not merely a religious festival but a celebration of timeless values that foster harmony, discipline and ethi-

cal conduct in society. He emphasized that the ideals of "Ram Rajya" symbolize good governance, equality and welfare of all, which remain relevant even in the present times.

The Minister stressed that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a land of rich cultural diversity and composite heritage, where people of different faiths and backgrounds have lived together in peace and mutual respect. He said that such occasions further strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, communal harmony and social cohesion.

Calling for collective responsibility, Satish Sharma urged the people to celebrate the festival with devotion, simplicity and adherence to traditional values, while also ensuring cleanliness and respect for public spaces. He appealed the citizens to extend a helping hand to the underprivileged and share the joy of the festival with those in need.

# Awareness Camp organized by KVIB Budgam at ITI Chrari Sharief

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) Budgam successfully organized an awareness camp cum interaction program Wednesday at Auditorium I.T.I Chrari Sharief Budgam to sensitize the general public, educated unemployed youth and passing out students of the institution about the various government schemes being implemented by the Board.

The program was attended by representative from Director RSETI, Principal I.T.I Chrari Sharief College, representatives from line Departments, Branch Heads of various banks, senior officers from LDM office Budgam and other dignitaries.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the local community, entrepreneurs, aspiring persons, NGOs, and students from the institution. The camp aimed to educate participants about the wide range of opportunities available under the flagship programs of KVIB, including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) designed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in urban as well as rural areas.



Addressing the gathering, District Officer KVIB Budgam emphasized the importance of utilizing these schemes to boost local industries and empower urban/rural communities. He urged the youth to get involved themselves with the schemes being implemented by the J&K KVIB for their upliftment to get the benefits of the schemes to establish their income generating ventures/units and create employment without wandering after the jobs. He requested them to engage and involve the young youth of the area in the employment generation by establishing their self income generation units sponsored under PMEGP/ JKREGP under different trades from each of the family so that the standard of living in the area will better and will contribute towards the economical

growth of the UT of J&K.

The session included detailed briefing about the financial assistance, subsidies, and technical support provided under these schemes to facilitate the establishment of small and medium enterprises and the training programmes offered by the JKRESEI.

Special emphasis was laid on the production of eco-friendly products and leveraging traditional crafts to enhance economic sustainability. Participants were also guided on the application process, eligibility criteria, and necessary documentation required to avail of these benefits.

The event featured interactive sessions, where queries were addressed and provided personalized consultations to attendees. Success stories of beneficiaries who have established thriving businesses

under KVIB schemes were also shared to inspire and motivate others.

During the programme, it was informed that, KVIB is committed for creating awareness about these schemes and ensuring that the benefits reach the grassroots level. It was also informed that during the current financial year 2025-26, KVIB Budgam has established 321 units providing M.M. (subsidy) to the tune of Rs 645.78 lakh under PMEGP and established 15 units involving M.M. (subsidy) to the tune of Rs 45.15 lakh under JKREGP.

The camp concluded with the distribution of informational booklets and registration forms to interested participants. KVIB assured that similar awareness programs would be conducted in other regions to extend the reach of their initiatives.

# DC Kulgam reviews Traffic Decongestion Measures in district



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Choudhary, Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to review measures for easing traffic congestion in Kulgam town.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of traffic management strategies, including identification of congestion-prone stretches and bottlenecks, regulation of roadside parking, removal of encroachments, streamlining of public transport stops/stands, diversion plans, and regulation of loading and unloading timings for commercial vehicles.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to ensure smooth traffic movement, particularly in busy market areas and major junctions of the

town. He directed the officers to take immediate steps to remove encroachments from footpaths so that pedestrians can move safely and conveniently.

The DC further instructed the concerned departments to intensify enforcement drives against illegal parking and unauthorized occupation of public spaces that contribute to traffic bottlenecks.

He also emphasized the proper utilization of designated parking areas and asked officers to ensure strict adherence to traffic regulations.

During the meeting, a review of route permits and rationalization of traffic flow in Kulgam town was also carried out to improve the overall traffic management system.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, DySP Traffic, Tehsildar Kulgam and other concerned officers.

# B'pora witnesses widespread participation in Vande Mataram Celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** As part of the ongoing celebrations marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, a series of vibrant and patriotic activities were conducted across various institutions in Bandipora district, reflecting widespread public participation and youthful enthusiasm.

On the occasion, Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) Office Bandipora organized a district-wide cycling initiative under the banner of "Vande Mataram," which witnessed active participation from students, staff, and sports lovers across all zones of the district.

The cycling drive aimed to promote physical fitness, environmental awareness, and a strong sense of national pride among the youth. Participants pedaled through different routes, turning the event into

a powerful display of unity, discipline, and patriotic spirit.

In continuation of the celebrations, Government Degree College Hajin organized a Signature Campaign, where students and faculty members enthusiastically participated and pledged their commitment towards national unity and values.

Similarly, NSS Units of HKM Degree College Bandipora organized an awareness rally to highlight the historical significance of Vande Mataram. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, NSS volunteers, and faculty members. Carrying placards and raising patriotic slogans, participants spread messages of unity, national pride, and cultural heritage in nearby areas.

Meanwhile, several schools across the district organized creative and engaging activi-

ties to mark the occasion. A cycling event was also held at Higher Secondary School Shahgund under the Vande Mataram programme.

Government Boys High School Ganastan conducted a "Selfie with Lyrics" activity, where students expressed their patriotism through creative participation. Similar activities were carried out at HSS Izmail, HSS Gadakhud, GHS Kaloosa, GHSS Aragam, and BMS Nai Basti Chorwan, where students actively participated in selfie campaigns during the singing of Vande Mataram, showcasing enthusiasm and national spirit.

These activities collectively transformed the district into a vibrant hub of patriotic fervour, with students and youth taking a lead in promoting the message of unity, fitness, and national pride.



# Social Forestry Deptt organizes plantation drive across Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Social Forestry Department, Budgam Wednesday organized a large-scale plantation drive across the district, distributing free plants of various varieties among the general public.

The main function in this regard was held at Ichgam, Budgam, where a huge gathering of locals, beneficiaries, and officials assembled to take part in the programme.

A wide range of plant

saplings was distributed free of cost with the aim of promoting greenery and environmental conservation in the district.

While interacting with the general public and beneficiaries, officials of the Social Forestry Department emphasized the importance of planting more trees to ensure a greener and healthier environment. They urged people to actively participate in afforestation efforts and take responsibility for nurturing the distributed plants.

# CS reviews progress of Tawi Artificial Lake, Riverfront Development Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Tawi Artificial Lake and Riverfront Development Project in Jammu.

The review covered key components including riverfront development works, barrage construction, sewerage interception, and protection measures being executed under the Smart City initiative.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC); Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Chief Engineer, PWD/UEED; and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary undertook a detailed assessment of both completed and ongoing works, including new initiatives aimed at enhancing the project's aesthetic appeal and

public utility.

He also reviewed restoration works necessitated by damages caused during last year's flash floods. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed all concerned departments to ensure that this major city beautification project is dedicated to the public at the earliest, with all requisite amenities in place.

Reviewing the progress of the Tawi Barrage (Artificial Lake), Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra informed that all 31 gates including 11 at Waddi Tawi and 20 at Nikki Tawi have largely been installed, with hydromechanical works nearing completion.

He detailed out that the electrical works, including transformers had seen the progress of around 70% while that of HT/LT panels has witnessed completion status of 60%. Similarly he added that the main distribution panels (80%), and SCADA systems (50%), are at advanced stages. Civil works such as piers, cement concrete blocks, toe walls, gabions, and the control room building (98%



complete) are nearing completion, although some components at Nikki Tawi are still in progress.

He further informed that the remaining works required for operationalisation of barrage gates, including embedded components and concreting of service gate grooves, are targeted for completion by the month end.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that Phase-1 (Part

A) of the riverfront project has been completed. This phase includes the development of a 2.7 km-long four-level promenade and 2.5 km of interceptor drains, resulting in the reclamation of approximately 440 kanals of land.

She added that retaining walls have been constructed 1.5 metres above the highest flood level recorded in 2014 and have withstood recent flood events without any distress, demonstrating the robustness of the

design and execution.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar apprised the meeting that construction of a four-lane road on the right bank is progressing steadily. The project includes a 35-metre span RCC bridge over the Ranbir Canal and Distributary-9, with 50% physical and 33% financial progress achieved so far.

He made out that the road will connect Bhagwati Nagar rotary with Bikram Chowk

and is expected to significantly ease congestion along the Canal Road-Jewel Chowk corridor. Protection works, drainage, and underground utility provisions are also included in this component, he apprised the meeting.

CEO, Jammu Smart City Limited, Devansh Yadav informed that under Phase-1 (Part B), works related to end-to-end promenade flooring, landscaping, and electrical fixtures on the left bank and central island are progressing well.

He further divulged that the project has achieved 55% physical and 40% financial progress and is targeted for completion by next 2-3 months. The works include installation of decorative lighting at two promenade levels, plantation with drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, and paving using Kota stone and paver blocks.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed protection works being executed by UEED at multiple vulnerable locations, including Christian Colony, Gujjar Nagar, Prem Nagar, and Jogi Gate, along with retaining wall and nallah diversion works near Peer Kho. The total project cost for these

works is 11.96 Cr and is currently under tendering.

Regarding the interception and diversion of major nallahs, it was informed that two major packages are under execution. In Package-1, covering the Gujjar Nagar to Tawi Bridge stretch, civil works have reached 92% completion while Package-2 on the right bank has achieved 85% completion, including RCC pipeline laying and construction of a 10 MLD equalisation tank. Some works were damaged during flash floods in August 2025, and restoration is currently underway, with revised timelines extending to March.

Emphasising timely completion, the Chief Secretary directed all executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work, maintain strict quality control, and adhere to project timelines, particularly in view of the upcoming flood season. He reiterated that the project will transform Jammu into a modern riverfront city, enhancing urban mobility, flood management, environmental sustainability, and economic potential.

## Mission SKILL to reshape J&K's skilling landscape, propel economic empowerment: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary spearheaded a crucial stakeholders' workshop, "Mission SKILL - Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem," at Jammu's Convention Centre, marking a significant stride towards revolutionizing J&K's skill development landscape.

The high-level event, organized by the Directorate of Skill Development, was aimed to chart a transformative roadmap for the region's skilling ecosystem.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who was the chief guest on the occasion, described Mission SKILL as a transformative and future-oriented initiative aimed at building a unified, demand-driven skilling ecosystem in J&K.

Addressing a gathering of senior officials, industry leaders, academicians and trainees, he highlighted the importance of the mission and emphasized that J&K possesses a significant demographic advantage with over 70 percent of its population in the working-age group.

"Our efforts are to harness this potential



effectively through a structured, inclusive and outcome-oriented skilling framework," he said.

He further underlined that Mission SKILL adopts a lifecycle approach to skilling, beginning from school-level exposure to vocational education and extending to technical training, career guidance and lifelong learning opportunities.

"It will help bridge the gap between education and employment by aligning training programmes closely with industry demands," he added.

Speaking in detail about the initiative, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that Mission SKILL aims to benefit lakhs of youth across

J&K, including students, job seekers and the existing workforce.

"Focused attention is being given to integration of vocational education in schools, strengthening career guidance systems, modernization of it is and Polytechnics and promotion of future-ready skills in sectors such as IT, renewable energy, tourism, and modern services," he said.

Emphasizing inclusivity, he reiterated the government's commitment to ensure equal access to opportunities for women, rural youth and marginalized communities, thereby fostering broad-based economic participation.

The Deputy Chief Min-

ister also stressed the adoption of a digital-first approach with an integrated platform for skill mapping, monitoring, certification and placement, ensuring transparency and real-time tracking of outcomes.

Expressing confidence in the initiative, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Mission SKILL will serve as a cornerstone for youth empowerment and inclusive economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to build a skilled, capable and future-ready workforce.

Calling for collective action, he urged strong collaboration between the government, industry

and educational institutions, stating that such partnerships are essential for building a robust and sustainable skilling ecosystem.

Earlier, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Secretary, Skill Development Department, highlighted the need for convergence across the departments to ensure optimal utilization of resources.

Among others Owais Ahmed, Director, Skill Development Department; Arun Manhas, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu; Arun Gupta, President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) J&K; Harvinder Singh, Director Employment & MD YUVA and Leena Padha, Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission besides other industry representatives and academic leaders also shared their perspectives.

The workshop witnessed participation from over 200 stakeholders and 250 trainees, who contributed valuable insights on bridging skill gaps and improving training outcomes.

## J&K Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026

### Rana advocates bold youth engagement in democratic processes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The JK-Round of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBYP) 2026, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, was held at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday with participation of young leaders to shape the nation's future.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, attended the programme as the chief guest and underscored the importance of youth engagement in democratic processes.

He said Youth Parliament programme will inculcate and nurture leadership, enhance civic awareness and promote informed policy engagement among the youth. It provides a structured platform for individuals aged 18-25 years to deliberate on pressing national issues, articulate their perspectives and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development journey, he added.

The VBYP 2026 is being conducted in a three-tier format, District, State/UT and National level, allow-



ing the participants to progress through competitive stages.

The JK-Round featured top performers from across districts, who demonstrated their critical thinking, oratory skills and leadership abilities through insightful deliberations.

The theme for this round, "Union Budget 2026: Strengthening the Indian Youth's Path Towards Viksit Bharat 2047," guided brainstorming discussions and presentations.

At the Youth Parliament, the participants engaged in a thought provoking discussion on the Union Budget 2026,

weighing its potential to fuel youth empowerment, innovation and inclusive growth. The exchange of ideas highlighted the budget's impact on shaping a sustainable future for the nation.

It was informed that the top three winners from this round will advance to represent J&K at the National Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Programme. Among those present were MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Director Nisar Bhat and jury members Sunaina Mehta, Prof. Mushtaq Wani and Simarjeet Singh besides other senior officers and dignitaries.

## Delegations raise development issues with Javed Rana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Several public delegations from different parts of Jammu Wednesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and apprised him of a range of developmental concerns and local demands.

A delegation from R.S. Pura, led by Naresh Choudhary, raised issues related to basic infrastructure and the delivery of essential public services in the area.

Another delegation from Udhampur, led by Abdul Ghani Teli and Shamim Begum also met the Minister and highlighted several local issues with particular focus on inad-

equate water supply in Qasim Nagar, Rajiv Nagar and adjoining localities. In addition, they brought attention to certain forest-related matters and concerns regarding road connectivity in the region.

Similarly, a delegation from Kathua, led by Talib Choudhary, urged the Minister to strengthen flood protection measures to safeguard the vulnerable areas.

A separate delegation from the Samba-Mansar belt, led by Haji Fareed, highlighted the need to harness the eco-tourism potential of the scenic Mansar region, stressing its importance for local economic development.

The Minister assured the delegations that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

## Javid Dar inaugurates State-of-the-Art Small Ruminant Hospital at Lal Mandi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday inaugurated the state-of-the-art Small Ruminant Hospital Complex at Lal Mandi, Srinagar, marking a significant milestone in strengthening veterinary infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister described the facility as a major step towards modernizing the livestock sector, particularly benefiting the sheep and goat rearers across the Kashmir Valley. He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure access to advanced animal healthcare services, which are crucial for enhancing productivity, improving livelihoods and boosting the rural economy.

"The establishment of this modern hospital complex reflects our focused



efforts to build robust veterinary infrastructure and provide specialized healthcare services for the small ruminant sector. This facility will not only improve disease diagnosis and treatment but also support farmers in achieving better returns from their livestock," the Minister said.

The Minister highlighted that the hospital, equipped with a modern Operation Theatre and Digital X-ray unit, will function as a referral centre offering advanced clinical and surgical care that was previously not readily accessible within the region.

He extolled that this is the second such advanced facility established by the Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir following the successful operationalization of a similar hospital at Chijhama, Baramulla. He reiterated the government's vision to expand such facilities across all districts to ensure equitable access to quality veterinary care.

Referring to the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Minister underscored the importance of innovation and scientific interventions in the livestock sector. He said that under Project-24 of

HADP, the introduction of Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) is a transformative step towards genetic upgradation of livestock, which will significantly enhance the productivity and breed quality in the coming years.

The Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Sheep Husbandry Department and its officers for their dedication in implementing progressive schemes and strengthening the livestock ecosystem in the Union Territory.

On the occasion, a Sheep Calendar was also released as part of the department's awareness and outreach initiatives aimed at educating the farmers and stakeholders.

Among others, MLA Lal Chowk Constituency, Financial Commissioner, Agriculture Production Department, Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, senior officers and stakeholders from the livestock sector were present during the inaugural ceremony.

## CM Omar Abdullah greets people on Ram Navami

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Shri Ram as the embodiment of righteousness, virtue and exemplary conduct. Underscoring the timeless relevance of Shri Ram's life and teachings, the Chief Minister remarked that his ideals serve as a guiding light, encouraging people to walk the path of righteousness and selfless service.

He further noted that Ram Navami is not merely a religious celebration, but also an occasion to reaffirm our shared commitment to the service of humanity with sincerity and dedication.

The Chief Minister prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir and extended his warm wishes to those celebrating the sacred festival.

## Sakeena Itoo extends Rama Navami greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Rama Navami.

In her message, the Minister highlighted that Ram Navami symbolizes the principles of righteousness, compassion, truth, and devotion, that continue to inspire generations. She noted that such sacred occasions reinforce the spirit of harmony, mutual respect and cultural unity that has long defined the social fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Panic Buying And Artificial Chaos

Rumours about petrol and diesel running dry in the coming days have begun to unsettle people, sparking panic buying across many areas. Long queues at fuel stations and hurried refuelling reflect a growing anxiety among consumers. Word of a possible shortage, whether verified or not, has spread quickly, feeding uncertainty and fear.

Petroleum authorities have issued repeated assurances that supplies are steady and there is no cause for concern. Yet, these statements have struggled to convince the public. There is a visible disconnect—what is being said officially is not what many people are feeling on the ground.

Consumers, worried about being caught off guard, are choosing caution over reassurance. In doing so, they are rushing to stock up, even when there is no confirmed shortage. This reaction, driven more by fear than fact, is putting pressure on fuel stations and creating an impression of scarcity where there may be none.

What we are witnessing is not just a supply issue, but a crisis of trust. When people begin to doubt official claims, rumours gain strength and spread faster than facts. Panic buying then becomes both a symptom and a cause—fueling demand, stretching supply chains, and deepening the sense of chaos.

At such times, clear and credible communication becomes crucial. Authorities need to go beyond routine assurances and actively rebuild public confidence. Equally important is for people to remain calm and avoid reacting to unverified information.

If this cycle of fear and reaction continues, the real challenge will not be a shortage of fuel, but the artificial crisis created by panic itself.

# Big Dreams, Bigger School Fee Burden

Advertisements Guarantee Success, But Results Matter, Are Parents Getting Value For Their Money?

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

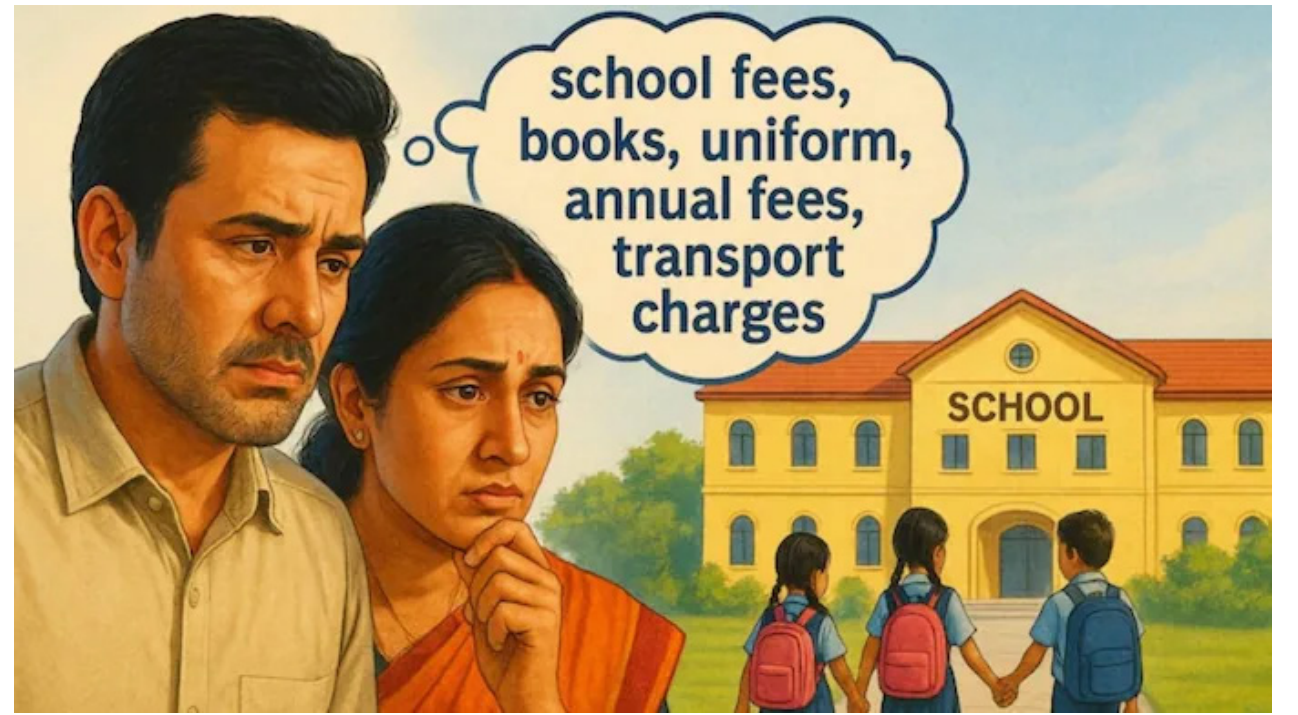
In today's world, education is no longer just a means of acquiring knowledge, but has also become a booming business. From cities to small towns, the number of private schools is constantly increasing, and along with them, so are their promotional strategies. Attractive advertisements for schools are seen in newspapers, billboards, social media, and even at local events. Each school bills itself as "the best," "a future builder," and a "guarantee of success." But the real question is: do these claims match reality, or are they simply a way to exploit the expectations and emotions of parents?

Today's parents are more aware than ever, but they are equally concerned about their children's future. They want their children to attend a good school, receive the best facilities, and progress in life. This thinking often leads them to spend beyond their means. Many families pay their children's fees by cutting back on their own needs, taking out loans, or working extra. They believe that attending an expensive school means a better education and guaranteed success.

Private schools understand this psychology and exploit it to their fullest in their advertising. They prominently showcase their campuses, infrastructure, smart classrooms, air-conditioned facilities, sports activities, and other modern resources. They also make tall claims about success in competitive examinations such as medical, engineering, law, and defense services. Advertisements often present the achievements of a select few students as if they reflect the school's overall performance.

But when we examine these claims more closely, a different picture emerges. The reality is that the success rate in competitive exams is very low. Whether it's medical entrance exams, prestigious engineering exams, or exams related to law and defense services—the number of students who succeed is often limited. Sometimes, only a handful of students manage to pass these exams in an entire year. Therefore, it's natural to question whether the claims made by the school are true.

It's also important to note that preparing for these competitive exams isn't possible solely through schooling. Most students seek out separate coaching institutes, where they are specifically



prepared for these exams. They invest additional time, effort, and resources. Therefore, if a school takes full credit for these students' success, it could be misleading to parents.

Board exam results are also a key measure of a school's quality. However, even here, it's often seen that very few students achieve 90 percent or higher. The number of students scoring above 95 percent is even lower. If a school claims to be a leading institution in its region, it's expected that its results will be at a similar level. However, this expectation often falls short.

The issue of fees is the most sensitive aspect of this entire topic. Private school fees are constantly rising, and in many cases, they are beyond the financial reach of middle-class families. Beyond fees, there are numerous additional expenses—such as transportation, uniforms, books, annual fees, activity fees, etc. Overall, the cost of a child's education becomes quite substantial.

It's important to understand that schools require funding to operate. Good teachers, modern facilities, security, and co-curricular activities all have an expense. But problems arise when there's a mismatch between fees and the quality of education. If a school charges high fees, it's not unreasonable to expect it to provide

the same level of quality. Recognizing this problem, the government has enacted rules and regulations to regulate fees in many states. Fee regulation committees have been established to prevent arbitrary fee hikes by schools. However, in practice, these regulations appear to have limited impact. Parents are often unaware of their rights and are hesitant to speak out.

In this situation, the role of parents becomes extremely important. Instead of making decisions based solely on advertisements, they should seriously analyze the school's actual performance, the quality of the teachers, and past results. If possible, they should talk to other parents and learn about their experiences. It is essential to understand the difference between the school's claims and reality.

Additionally, if parents feel that the school is not being transparent or making false claims, they should speak out collectively. Uniting forces and demanding answers from the school management, and filing a complaint with the relevant education authorities or board, if necessary, can be an effective step. This can not only resolve the problem but also prevent similar situations in the future.

It's also important that we don't limit

the definition of success solely to marks and competitive exams. Every child is unique, with varying interests and abilities. The goal of education should not be merely passing a single exam, but rather ensuring the child's overall development. A good school is one that helps children become self-reliant, confident, and responsible citizens.

In today's times, it's crucial to understand that no school can guarantee success. School merely provides a platform from which a child begins their journey. Their success depends on their hard work, the guidance they receive, and the environment they are exposed to.

Ultimately, education should be viewed as a service, not just a business. Schools have a responsibility to maintain transparency, be accountable to their claims, and maintain parental trust. Parents also have a responsibility to be informed, make informed decisions, and speak out when necessary.

Only if balance and trust is maintained between these two parties, can we create an education system that can truly brighten the future of children, and not just remain an expensive affair.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

## Beyond The Device: Why Clarity Of Thought Matters Now

ER. SUHAIB BAKSHI

At a time when technology is advancing rapidly but thoughtful originality remains limited, his legacy reminds us that meaningful innovation begins with clarity of thought and the courage to think independently.

At a time when questions of originality and imitation are increasingly being discussed across different contexts, the life of Steve Jobs offers a perspective that extends beyond the domain of technology. His story is often associated with entrepreneurial success, yet its broader significance lies in the way it encourages a more deliberate engagement with ideas, creativity, and purpose. More than a figure connected with technological change, Jobs represents an approach to thinking that continues to influence how individuals understand innovation, design, and learning.

In such a context, the question is not only how technology is shaping our lives, but how our ways of thinking are shaping the use of technology itself. We live in an era defined by access, where information is widely available and devices are increasingly present in everyday life. Yet this availability does not always translate into deeper understanding. Ideas often circulate within familiar patterns, shaped by repetition rather than reflection. It is within this setting that the importance of independent and thoughtful thinking becomes more visible.

Born on February 24, 1955, in San Francisco and raised in California, Jobs grew up during a period when the foundations of modern computing were gradually taking shape. His early experiences suggest an inclination toward curiosity and exploration. His brief association with Reed College is often remembered not for formal completion, but for the opportunity it provided to engage with subjects of genuine interest. His exposure to calligraphy, which

he later connected to the design of the Macintosh, illustrates how diverse influences can converge to produce meaningful outcomes.

The founding of Apple Inc. in 1976, alongside Steve Wozniak, marked the beginning of a process that would contribute significantly to the development of personal computing. From its early stages, there was a consistent effort to make technology more accessible and intuitive. The introduction of the Macintosh in 1984 played an important role in expanding the use of graphical interfaces, making computers easier to use for a wider range of people. This development reshaped how individuals interacted with technology in everyday contexts.

At the same time, Jobs' journey included moments of transition. In 1985, he left Apple, an experience that led him to explore new directions. Through NeXT, he continued working on advanced computing systems, while his involvement with Pixar contributed to developments in animation and storytelling. The release of Toy Story in 1995 reflected how technology and creativity could be brought together in constructive and imaginative ways.

A more detailed understanding of Jobs' personality and approach is presented in Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson. Isaacson describes Jobs as a figure marked by intensity, focus, and a distinctive vision. The idea often referred to as a "reality distortion field" reflects his ability to encourage others to attempt what initially appeared beyond reach. This was not simply persuasion, but a deeper form of conviction.

The biography also highlights Jobs' preference for integration. He believed that meaningful innovation required the alignment of hardware, software, and design into a coherent whole. This per-

spective shaped Apple's identity and contributed to the consistency of its products.

When Jobs returned to Apple in 1997, the company was facing considerable challenges. What followed was a period marked by clarity and discipline. By simplifying product lines and focusing on usability and design, Apple regained direction. Products such as the iMac, iPod, iPhone, and iPad reshaped how technology was experienced, not only in terms of function, but also in terms of interac-



tion. The iPhone, introduced in 2007, stands out as a defining development. By bringing together communication, computing, and media in a single device, it influenced how individuals engage with information and with one another. Reflecting on his approach, Jobs once remarked, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

Even in his earlier years, he expressed a clear sense of purpose, speaking about the importance of making a meaningful impact on the world. This reflects an understanding that truly meaningful work aspires to enduring significance and leaves a lasting imprint beyond immediate achievement.

His early travels also included a visit to India, where he explored a range of reflective and philosophical traditions. His reading extended beyond technical mate-

rial to include works of literature and reflective writing, including writers such as William Shakespeare and Herman Melville, as well as works like Autobiography of a Yogi, reflecting a broader intellectual curiosity.

A recurring theme in Jobs' work is simplicity. Rather than viewing simplicity as the absence of complexity, he approached it as clarity achieved through disciplined effort. As he noted, "Simple can be harder than complex."

At the same time, one of his most significant contributions was his ability to bridge disciplines.

He brought together the humanities and technol-

ogy, demonstrating that meaningful innovation often emerges at the intersection of logic, design, and human experience.

An often understated dimension of his approach was his emphasis on storytelling. Whether in his product presentations or in the creative culture he supported at Pixar, Jobs recognized that ideas acquire depth and resonance when shaped as narratives. For him, innovation was not solely a technical achievement, but also an act of communication that connected technology with human experience.

Those who knew him closely often placed him in the company of transformative figures. Larry Ellison, for instance, described Steve Jobs as a rare individual whose influence could be compared with pioneering innovators such as Thomas Edison and artists like Pablo Picasso, reflecting his distinctive ability to unite creativity with technological insight.

His 2005 Stanford commencement address continues to resonate for its clarity and insight. In it, he reflected, "You can't connect

the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward." He also observed, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life." These reflections underscore the importance of trust, authenticity, and the courage to follow one's own path. His concluding words, "Stay hungry, stay foolish," continue to be interpreted as an invitation to remain open to learning and exploration.

For readers in Kashmir, these ideas may hold quiet relevance. In a context where access to knowledge continues to expand, the emphasis on clarity of thought and disciplined curiosity becomes especially meaningful. The example of Steve Jobs suggests that meaningful contribution is shaped not only by resources, but by the ability to think independently, to engage thoughtfully with ideas, and to remain open to learning from diverse influences. Ultimately, his life invites reflection on the nature of innovation itself. It suggests that progress is not solely a function of technological advancement, but of intellectual engagement. The development of tools is closely connected to the development of thought.

To reflect on Steve Jobs, therefore, is not merely to recall a figure of technological transformation, but to engage with a way of thinking that continues to invite reflection. His journey suggests that originality is not a moment, but a discipline shaped by curiosity, refined by clarity, and sustained by effort.

In a time when imitation is often easier than reflection, the real challenge is not simply to recognize the value of independent thinking, but to practice it with consistency and care. In the end, to think differently is not merely an advantage. It is an intellectual responsibility.

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Unity In Duality

# Antimatter And Quantum Spin Can Teach Us About A Coherent Cosmos



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In a brief but thought-provoking reflection shared on LinkedIn, Ayaz Hussain Bukhari draws a daring bridge between two worlds that rarely speak comfortably to each other: the precision language of modern physics and the spiritual intuition of tawhid—the Islamic idea of oneness expressed in the declaration “La ilaha illallah” (There is no deity except God). His central suggestion is not that physics “proves” theology, but that some of physics’ most fundamental patterns—matter and antimatter, positive and negative charges, spin-up and spin-down—can be read as metaphors of unity expressed through apparent opposites.

This is an old human impulse and, at its best, a productive one. Across civilizations, people have used nature’s symmetry to speak about meaning: day and night, sea and land, life and death. Yet in our era, when scientific language is often treated as the only language of truth, it is worth asking: what does modern physics actually say about “opposites”—and what is the most responsible way to connect those ideas to spiritual reflection without distorting either?

## The Physics: Antimatter Is Not “Other,” It Is “Mirror”

Start with the science that anchors Bukhari’s analogy. Antimatter is not speculative poetry; it is established physics. For nearly every particle of ordinary matter, there exists an antiparticle with the same mass and opposite electric charge. The electron’s antiparticle is the positron: identical in mass, opposite in charge. A proton has an antiproton. When a particle meets its antiparticle, they can annihilate into energy—typically photons—according to Einstein’s famous relation between mass and energy.

This “mirror pairing” is not a decorative feature of physics; it is deeply tied to the mathematical structure of quantum field theory. In the Stan-

dard Model, particles are excitations of fields, and antiparticles emerge naturally from the same equations. In that sense, antimatter is not a rival universe; it is part of the same rule-book—an internal symmetry of a single system.

And that is where Bukhari’s phrase “unity in duality” becomes scientifically resonant: physics often contains paired states that are opposite in a precise parameter (charge, quantum number, orientation) yet belong to one underlying framework.

## Spin: Not Just “Rotation,” but a Quantum Identity

Bukhari also invokes spin, comparing matter-antimatter duality to “spin-up” and “spin-down.” This is an excellent gateway concept, because spin reveals something counterintuitive: the universe is not only made of things we can picture. It is also made of properties that are fundamentally quantum, described not by everyday intuition but by mathematics.

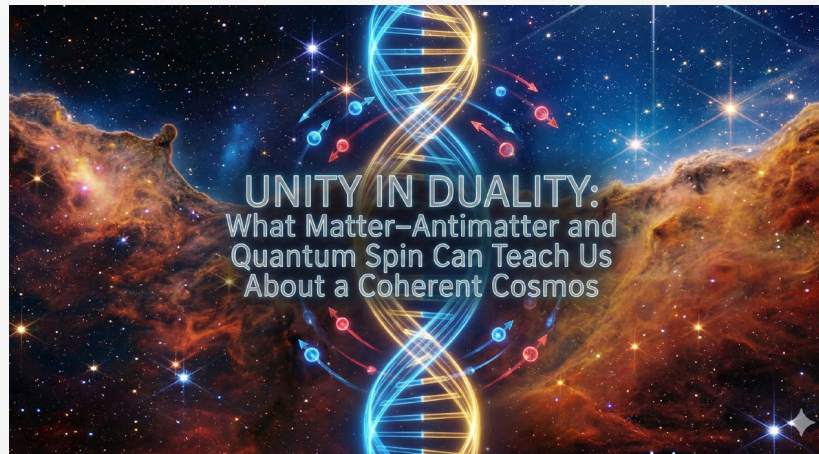
In ordinary language, “spin” sounds like a tiny ball rotating. In quantum mechanics, it is more subtle. Spin is an intrinsic property—more like an identity card than a literal rotation. Yet it behaves in measurable ways: particles can be observed in different spin states relative to a chosen axis. For many particles, measurements yield discrete outcomes such as “up” or “down.”

Here, our perception hits a wall. We want continuous motion; quantum mechanics often gives us discrete results. We can accept that a compass needle points north or south, but we struggle with the idea that a particle can present only certain allowed outcomes when measured.

Bukhari’s point about human limitation is significant: we are excellent at imagining classical motion, but poor at intuitively grasping quantum behaviour. We understand a wheel turning. We do not easily understand a state that can be “up,” “down,” or even a superposition of both until measurement.

## Do Spins “Flip Continuously”? What the Metaphor Gets Right—and What It Should Not Claim

In the LinkedIn post, Bukhari suggests we cannot intuitively grasp the “continuous flipping” of spin, connecting that to the Sun’s magnetic cycle. As metaphor, this works: both spin and magnetism involve orientation, polarity, and changes that do not always map neatly onto our everyday experience.



But scientific clarity matters, especially in public writing. In quantum mechanics, a spin does not necessarily “flip” continuously in a simple mechanical sense. What can happen is that a quantum state evolves over time under external fields (for example, it can process like a spinning top under gravity). When measured along a given axis, it yields discrete outcomes. So it is better to say: quantum systems can change their state over time, but our observations come in discrete readouts shaped by measurement conditions.

The deeper point remains valuable: the universe often behaves in ways that are consistent and law-governed yet not easily pictured.

## The Sun’s Magnetic Cycle: Polarity Reversal Without “Leaving Itself”

The Sun provides an arresting macroscopic analogy. Roughly every 11 years, the Sun’s visible magnetic pattern undergoes a reversal—north becomes south, and vice versa. In broader terms, the Sun completes a full magnetic cycle over about 22 years (often called the Hale cycle), because it takes two 11-year cycles to return to its original magnetic orientation.

This phenomenon carries a message that aligns with Bukhari’s theme: reversal does not require chaos. The polarity changes, yet the system remains one Sun—localized, coherent, governed by underlying dynamics. To the casual observer, a reversal sounds like instability. To the physicist, it is a patterned oscillation produced by deep internal flows and field interactions.

That is a powerful metaphor for unity: change and opposition can be internal to one coherent entity, not evidence of two competing realities.

## Symmetry: The Hidden Gram-

## mar of Nature

What ties matter-antimatter and spin states together is a central principle of modern physics: symmetry. Symmetry does not mean “pretty patterns”; it means invariance under transformation. Change something in a defined way and the laws still hold.

Matter and antimatter are connected to transformations involving charge conjugation (switching charge), parity (mirror reflection), and time reversal. Spin is tied to rotational symmetry at the quantum level. These symmetries are not merely descriptive; they often generate conservation laws—like conservation of energy and momentum.

## The Spiritual Reading: Oneness Without Erasing Difference

The declaration “La ilaha illallah” asserts oneness at the level of ultimate reality. Bukhari’s analogy suggests that physics, in its own domain, repeatedly reveals “paired opposites” contained inside a single consistent system. This is not a proof of theology; it is a pattern of thought: unity expressed through structured duality.

## However, a responsible spiritual reading must keep one boundary clear:

- Physics describes how the physical world behaves.
- Faith addresses meaning, purpose, and ultimate commitments.

The bridge between them is interpretive, not deductive. Still, interpretation matters because it shapes how educated people talk about science in a moral and cultural context. If sci-

ence is treated as spiritually sterile, many will reject it emotionally. If faith is treated as anti-rational, many will dismiss it intellectually. The healthier path is to let each domain keep its integrity while allowing careful metaphor and reflection.

## Human Perception: Why “One Direction” Feels Natural

Bukhari notes that we “observe motion in a single direction.” This can be read in multiple ways. At the everyday level, we experience time as flowing forward. Heat spreads out, not spontaneously concentrating. Glass shatters, not naturally reassembling. This “arrow of time” is linked to entropy: the tendency of closed systems to move toward more probable (more disordered) states.

At the quantum level, the story is more subtle. Many fundamental equations do not strongly prefer a direction of time, yet our macroscopic world does. Again we see a theme: the laws can contain symmetry, while our lived experience contains asymmetry. The universe is coherent; our vantage point is limited.

## A Coherent System of Apparent Opposites

What is ultimately compelling about Bukhari’s LinkedIn idea is not the claim that physics is theology in disguise, but the suggestion that duality does not automatically mean division. In modern physics, opposites are often two sides of one formal structure:

- particle and antiparticle,
- positive and negative charge,
- spin-up and spin-down,
- magnetic north and south.

These are not mutually annihilating metaphysical camps. They are complementary states inside one system governed by consistent laws.

If a newspaper reader takes one insight from this reflection, it could be this: the universe is not only a collection of objects; it is a network of relationships and constraints. Opposites are not always enemies. Sometimes they are the very mechanism by which coherence becomes possible.

In that sense, the “unity in duality” framing can serve both the scientific mind and the reflective mind—so long as we keep our metaphors honest, our science accurate, and our spiritual language humble.

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The Synthetic Fossil

# Why Kashmir’s Watershed Is Choking On A ‘Plastic Glacier’

HARIS MASHOOQ ZIA

As the snows of the Pir Panjal and the Greater Himalayas begin their annual retreat, they reveal a harrowing modern archaeology. Beneath the pristine white of our slopes lies a “synthetic fossil” record: layers of multi-layered packaging (MLP), polyethylene bottles, and discarded PVC, some frozen into the ice for decades. From the Thajiw glacier in Sonamarg to the meadows of Tosamaidan, the “Plastic Glacier” is no longer a metaphor, it is a geological reality.

For a region like Kashmir, where the economy and ecology are two sides of the same coin, this is not just a sanitation crisis; it is a threat to our hydrological security. If we do not move toward a “Zero-Plastic Altitude” policy, we are effectively poisoning the very source of the Jhelum.

## The Albedo Effect: How Plastic Melts Mountains

The scientific impact of plastic on our high-altitude zones is often misunderstood. It isn’t just an eyesore; it is a thermal hazard. Dark-coloured plastic waste, discarded wrappers and bags, alters the Albedo (reflectivity) of the snow. While pure snow reflects nearly 90% of solar radiation, dark plastic debris absorbs it, creating localized “heat pockets.” This leads to accelerated melting of the permafrost and glaciers.

Furthermore, as these plastics weather under intense UV radiation at high altitudes, they don’t disappear; they fragment into microplastics. These microscopic particles are



now being detected in the snowmelt that feeds our streams. When we drink from the “pristine” springs of Ganderbal or Anantnag, we are increasingly consuming the degraded remnants of last year’s tourist season.

## The Logistics of Altitude: A Systemic Failure

The current crisis in places like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Doodhpathri stems from a fundamental mismatch in waste management. We are applying “urban” solutions to “alpine” problems. In a city, a garbage truck can navigate a street; on a trekking trail to Tarsar-Marsar or

the Kolahoi glacier, there is no such infrastructure.

The result is a “collect and dump” cycle. Waste is gathered from tourist hubs and dumped into nearby forest clearings or riverbanks, where it is either buried by snow or washed into the headwaters during the spring thaw. This “Out of Sight, Out of Mind” approach is merely moving the poison from the mountain’s peak to the valley’s plate.

## The Strict Policy Framework (The “Legal Teeth”)

The “Polluter Pays” Mandate: Legally mandate that any company selling PET bottles or plastic-heavy

snacks in Kashmir must contribute 2% of their local revenue to a “Glacier Restoration Fund.”

Blacklisting Clause: Any trekking agency or tour operator found leaving a “plastic trail” in high-altitude meadows should have their operational license cancelled immediately, not just a small fine.

Zoning Restrictions: Declare a “5-Kilometer Buffer Zone” around all major glaciers (like Kolahoi or Thajiw) where the possession of single-use plastic is a punishable offense, similar to carrying contraband.

To save our watershed, we need more than “Cleanliness Drives.” We need a multifaceted, technically-driven intervention:

RFID-Tagged “Entry-Exit” Inventory: Every commercial trekking group and vendor entering a high-altitude zone (above 2,500 meters) should be required to “check in” their plastic inventory—bottles, cans, and packaged food. Using simple RFID tags or QR-coded stickers, the Forest Department can ensure that the exact number of plastic units taken up the mountain is brought back down. A “Trash-In, Trash-Out” (TITO) mandate should be legally binding for all tour operators.

Decentralized Pyro-Gasification: Traditional incinerators at high altitudes are inefficient due to low oxygen levels. Instead, we should deploy small-scale, low-emission pyro-gasification units at base camps. These units can convert non-recyclable plastic waste into thermal energy or “syngas” without releasing the toxic dioxins associated with open burning.

The “Mountain-Cess” and EPR: We must invoke Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR). Global beverage and snack giants whose packaging litters our meadows must be taxed a “Mountain-Cess.” These funds should be ring-fenced to pay for “Mule-Back Waste Logistics”—hiring local pony-wallas to act as “Eco-Guards” who retrieve waste from the highest ridges where machinery cannot reach.

Bio-Geotextile Reinforcement: In areas where plastic-induced erosion has already scarred the slopes, we should use biodegradable coir and jute mats (geotextiles) to stabilize the soil while re-seeding native grasses. This prevents the “bald” patches from expanding into landslides.

The condition of our glaciers is a mirror of our collective conscience. Whether it is the waste left behind during the Amarnath Yatra or the litter strewn across the Great Lakes trek, we are treating our “Water Towers” as dustbins.

We must advocate for the designation of “Plastic-Free Alpine Zones”—areas where the sale of single-use plastics is entirely banned, replaced by community-led water filtration stations and biodegradable packaging. The preservation of the Zabarwan, the health of the Dal, and the longevity of our glaciers are interconnected.

Kashmir’s identity is carved by water and ice. If we allow the “Plastic Glacier” to grow, we are not just losing our scenery; we are losing our lifeblood. It is time for a policy that treats our mountains with the scientific precision and the spiritual reverence they deserve.

The author can be mailed at haris-mashooqharis@gmail.com

# Admin Issues Advisory On Rumours Of Fuel Shortage

## Assures Adequate Stocks, Urges Public To Avoid Panic Buying

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The general public is hereby informed that adequate stocks of essential commodities, particularly petrol, diesel and LPG are available in the district and the supply position remains normal/stable. There is no cause for concern in this regard.

All citizens are advised to

refrain from panic buying and avoid unnecessary rush at petrol pumps, and to procure fuel as per their normal requirements at designated outlets. The public is further urged not to believe in or spread rumours or unverified information.

The administration is closely monitoring the situation. Any instance of hoarding, black marketing, overcharg-

ing or unauthorised sale of fuel in loose containers such as bottles, jars or cans having potential to cause panic is strictly prohibited and shall be dealt with firmly under the provisions of law.

The public is urged to extend full cooperation to the administration in maintaining order and ensuring smooth availability of essential commodities.

Similarly, district Administration Anantnag has issued an urgent public advisory urging residents not to pay heed to rumours circulating on social media about shortages of essential commodities, particularly petrol, diesel, and cooking gas.

Officials clarified that there is no shortage of fuel or LPG supplies in the district. Adequate stocks are available at

all authorized outlets, including those operated by Indian Oil Corporation, ensuring uninterrupted services for the public.

The administration emphasized that misinformation can lead to unnecessary panic and disrupt normal supply chains. Citizens have been advised to avoid panic buying and rely only on verified information issued through official govern-

ment channels.

In its appeal, the administration stated that all essential commodities are being monitored through designated control rooms which are manned by senior officers and officials from concerned departments. Supply lines remain fully functional and residents are encouraged to rely only on official information and not to pay heed to any rumours.

The advisory further solicits cooperation from the general public so that calm and order are maintained in the district.

Authorities further warned that spreading false information may invite legal action and urged the public to act responsibly during this time.

"There is no need for concern. Supplies are sufficient and services are running smoothly, the administration reassured".

# Imported Elite High Merit Breeds To Power J&K's Dairy Transformation: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday visited the Animal Husbandry facility at Ranbirbagh, Ganderbal and reviewed the ongoing initiatives at the station.

Interacting with the officers and field functionaries, the Minister highlighted a dual strategy for dairy growth: boosting milk productivity via genetic upgradation and strengthening dairy infrastructure, processing

He underscored that dairying has emerged as a high-impact

sector with strong potential to uplift small, marginal and landless farmers.

Referring to the Dairy Development Project under HADP, the Minister said that efforts are being undertaken in mission mode to improve the breed quality, expand artificial insemination coverage and strengthen value chains. He observed that Jammu & Kashmir currently produces nearly 30 lakh metric tonnes of milk annually, with a target of 43 lakh metric tonnes by 2030 to bridge the demand-supply gap and position the Union Territory as a net exporter of dairy products.

In a significant step towards genetic improvement, he highlight-

ed that elite high-merit breeding bulls have been imported from the United States under HADP, which will be used for artificial insemination and systematic breed improvement of local livestock.

The Minister also reviewed the upgradation of the Frozen Semen Station at Ranbirbagh, being undertaken with support from NABARD, to develop it into a state-of-the-art facility. He emphasized that strengthening semen production and distribution infrastructure is critical to scale up the artificial insemination programme across the Union Territory.

He further stated that over their productive lifespan of around eight years, these bulls

are expected to produce approximately 1.2 crore semen doses, resulting in the birth of nearly 15 lakh high-yielding dairy cows across Jammu & Kashmir.

Termining the initiative a transformational intervention, the Minister said it will significantly enhance the milk yields, boost farmers' incomes, generate employment in dairy farming and processing and accelerate J&K's transition towards becoming a net exporter in the dairy sector.

Among those present during the visit were Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir Mohd Yunus, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ganderbal and other senior officers of the department.

# DC Ganderbal flags-off exposure visit for CWSN students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore WEDnesday flagged off a district-level exposure visit for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) from Mini-Secretariat Ganderbal.

The exposure visit has been organised under Samagra Shiksha by the Education Department as part of efforts to strengthen inclusive education and provide meaningful learning opportunities to CWSN students.

A total of 32 students, accompanied by 12 teachers, are participating in

the visit to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shuhama.

The visit aims to provide experiential learning by exposing students to diverse academic and practical environments. During the programme, students will explore laboratories, libraries, cattle farms and various entrepreneurship units within the university campus, enabling them to learn beyond classrooms in an interactive and supportive setting.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with the students and accompany-

ing staff and underscored the importance of such initiatives in boosting confidence, promoting social interaction and ensuring overall development of children with special needs. He appreciated the efforts of the education department in organising the programme and ensuring inclusive participation.

Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Principal Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Ganderbal, and other officers and officials from the education department, teachers, and parents were present during the flag-off ceremony.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Anxiety Continues To

discrepancies related to visa status in their passports, which could further delay their exit.

Parents in Jammu and Kashmir, have voiced deep concern over the situation and are urging authorities to expedite the evacuation process. "Every passing day is increasing our anxiety. The government must ensure all students are brought back safely and at the earliest," said a worried parent.

Officials have indicated that all stranded students are expected to return by March 31, subject to the timely issuance of exit codes. However, given the current pace, families remain apprehensive.

Meanwhile, the All India Medical Students Association, represented by Dr. Momin Khan, has expressed gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, and the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir's office for their continued support and intervention in the matter—(KNO)

### J&K's Rapid Growth

with fewer resources and to market their products more effectively," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the administration is the backbone of any nation, and today citizens expect transparency, accountability, and efficiency from it. He said that the administrative machinery must also evolve with time and should become completely citizen-centric.

"We must empower individuals and institutions to confront emerging challenges head-on, so that India's dream of becoming the world's greatest nation is realised. Universities and institutions must join hands with the ISTD to give concrete shape to this resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that amid all transformation, one truth holds firm: the most powerful instrument of change available to any state, nation, or institution is not technology alone, nor capital alone, nor natural resources alone but trained, developed, and also awakened mind.

"The real instrument of change is a trained, developed professional mind. Trained human resources will become the foundation of our progress, the energy behind our inclusive growth, and a real vehicle for shaping the future," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Shri Atul Shah, National President, Indian Society for Training & Development; Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu and Mentor, ISTD Jammu Chapter; Prof Ashok Aima, Chairman, ISTD Jammu Chapter; Ms. Ankita Sharma, Regional Vice-President (North), ISTD; Prof Hardeep Chahal, Vice Chairperson, Dr Shahid Mushtaq, General Secretary and other members of ISTD Jammu Chapter; senior officials, heads of educational institutions and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

### LG Greets People

Ram's timeless ideals and life values

in our daily lives and selflessly serve the humanity. I pray that Prabhu Shri Ram shower his divine blessings upon us in the years ahead, and may this auspicious Ram Navami fill every home with enduring peace, boundless joy, and abundant prosperity."

### Rain, Snow Likely

from April 1 to 4," he said. The MeT office has also issued an advisory warning of moderate snowfall over a few higher reaches accompanied by thunder, lightning and gusty winds between the night of March 28 and March 30.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations on March 26 and from March 29 to 31, while travellers have been asked to follow traffic advisories and plan their movement accordingly during the same period—(KNO)

### Div Com Denies Lockdown

government sources for authentic information," he said.

On the prevailing security situation, he said it remains stable and under constant review. "There is no change in the security scenario. Regular joint reviews are being conducted by the district administration and police to ensure normalcy," he said.

Highlighting the ongoing tourist season, the Divisional Commissioner said that tourist destinations are open and are witnessing a steady inflow of visitors.

Referring to the recent opening of the Tulip Garden, he said the administration is closely monitoring tourist footfall throughout the day. "We appeal to tourists to visit Kashmir in large numbers during the spring and summer season," he added.

The clarification by Div Com comes amid a surge in rumours about a possible lockdown in Kashmir, which had triggered concern among residents and led to panic buying in some areas—(KNO)

### Amid Rumours,

rumours," Garg said. Officials also said that the rush was triggered purely by panic behaviour and not by any disruption in supply, adding that normal supply chains remain intact.

It is important to mention, the panic buying comes a day after rumours of a possible lockdown spread widely across social media platforms, prompting concerns among residents.

Despite repeated assurances from the administration denying any such move, the rumours led to sudden crowding at fuel stations and selective shortages caused by increased demand rather than actual supply constraints—(KNO)

### CS Pushes For Time

portal has been developed in collaboration with BISAG-N for updating Recruitment Rules in a streamlined and efficient manner.

She further informed that, with effect

from April 1, 2026, all offline submissions of proposals for Recruitment Rules will be discontinued, and departments will be required to mandatorily route their proposals through the online portal. The portal has already been made fully operational after successful security audits and integration of SMS-based communication features. To ensure a smooth transition, four high-level training sessions have also been conducted for departmental Nodal Officers, she added.

Highlighting the progress achieved so far, it was informed that the Standing Committee constituted for the purpose has maintained a consistent pace of work, having convened 53 meetings since early 2024. Through these deliberations, Recruitment Rules for 33 services have been finalized, while preliminary drafts for 81 additional services have been prepared. Moreover, 12 services have been cleared through Executive Orders to address urgent administrative requirements.

The meeting was also apprised that these concerted efforts are aimed at clearing the existing backlog and aligning departmental structures with contemporary governance requirements and best practices.

Addressing structural gaps and pending issues, it was noted that internal audits have identified key areas requiring immediate attention, including the presence of outdated pay scales linked to the 5th and 6th Pay Commissions, as well as stagnation in "Schedule-I" post allocations.

The departments were advised to adopt uniform model Recruitment Rules for ministerial staff to bring consistency across the system. They were also instructed to clearly define parameters such as "experience" in Recruitment Rules to remove ambiguity and ensure fairness in the selection process.

The Chief Secretary issued specific directions to major departments including Health, Education, Revenue and Agriculture to resolve pending mapping issues on priority and finalize their Recruitment Rules without any further delay.

The meeting concluded with a reiteration of the Government's resolve to modernize administrative processes, enhance transparency, and ensure timely recruitment through a robust, technology-driven framework in the best interest of government employees here.

### What Centre's Proposal

constitute a delimitation commission for redrawing the boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats.

As per the proposal, the 2011 Census would be the basis for the delimitation exercise.

The existing legal framework provides that women's reservation will only apply after the 2027 Census is completed and constituencies are redrawn through delimitation based on that data—(KNO)

### Over 4,400 Kg Of

stated that 66 fugitives wanted in drug-related cases have been identified.

A total of 24 Red Notices and 25 Blue Notices have been issued against them, while five fugitives were deported from various countries during 2025—(KNO)

### Additional 300 MW

annual electrical energy requirement of the UT is likely to grow at a CAGR of 4 percent while the peak electricity demand for the utility is likely to grow at a CAGR of 6 percent for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

About the day-wise surplus coal capacity, the documents said that the surplus capacity is available with the Union Territory due to RE availability, demand variation etcetera..

"The UT has likely surplus capacity of around 700-900 MW during May to June months and 500 MW from July to September in 2028-29 which can be shared with other states and Discoms," it reads.

As already reported by this news agency, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to depend on nearly 30 percent of coal based energy by the year 2030.

The official documents in this regard reveal that the likely total projected contracted capacity for the year 2035-36 is around 11,001 Megawatts (MW).

"The projected contracted capacity consists of 3239 MW from coal, 129 MW from gas, 68 MW from nuclear, 3666 MW from hydro, 2040 MW from solar, 598 MW from Distributed Renewal Energy (DRE) and 1261 MW from MTOA or STOA," it reads—(KNO)

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WORLD WATER DAY 2026

# Rana pledges gender inclusive water management in J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday virtually attended the World Water Day celebration organized by the Institution of Engineers, where extensive deliberations were held on this year's global theme, "Water and Gender: Where water flows, equality grows."

The event highlighted the critical intersection of water access and gender equality, drawing attention to the disproportionate burden that water scarcity places on women and girls, particularly in rural and underserved regions.

The speakers emphasized that ensuring women's participation and leadership in water governance is not only a matter of equity but also a prerequisite for sustainable development and climate resilience, in line with the goals of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which focuses on clean water and sanitation for all.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored the importance of inclusive and participatory water management systems. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensure equitable access to safe and sustainable water resources across

the Union Territory. He stressed that empowering women in water-related decision-making processes can significantly strengthen the community resilience, improve resource efficiency, and promote long-term environmental sustainability.

Among the dignitaries present included MLA Ahsan Pardesi, senior officials and domain experts including Managing Director of the Jal Jeevan Mission, Anjali Seharawat, Chief Engineers, Rakesh Gupta, Hanief Choudhary, Bodh Raj, Basharat Ahmad and Superintending Engineers.

The programme featured in-depth discussions

on strengthening water management frameworks, integrating gender perspectives into policy planning and addressing the emerging challenges posed by climate change.

The participants also exchanged insights on innovative strategies to enhance water security while fostering inclusive growth and social equity.

The event concluded with a shared resolve to accelerate efforts towards building a more equitable and water-secure future, where communities, especially women, play a central role in shaping sustainable water governance practices.

# DLSA Budgam conducts Awareness Programme on NALSA Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** District Legal Services Authority, Budgam (DLSA Budgam), under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority and under the chairmanship of O. P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Budgam, successfully conducted an awareness programme on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, along with awareness on digital frauds and online scams at Al-Asama Educational Institute, Budgam.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among students and staff regarding the legal rights and entitlements of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, as well as sensitizing them about the increasing risks of digital frauds and the preventive measures to safeguard themselves in



the online space.

Tajher Bashir, System Officer, e-Courts Budgam, highlighted various aspects of cybercrimes, including online fraud, hacking, and data breaches. He elaborated on different forms of digital fraud and online scams such as phishing, OTP frauds, and identity theft. He also shared practical measures to ensure safety in the digital environment.

Furthermore, he educated the participants about the legal consequences of cybercrimes and provided guidance on how individuals can protect themselves from becoming victims of such offences.

During the programme, the resource person, highlighted the key provisions of the NALSA Scheme, 2024, emphasizing access

to free legal aid, protection of rights, and the role of legal services institutions in supporting vulnerable sections of society. During the lecture, the participants were sensitized about the challenges faced by persons suffering from mental illness and intellectual disabilities within the legal system, as well as the importance of providing them with effective legal representation and support.

The participants were also informed about the objectives of the LSUM Scheme, 2024, including the availability of free legal aid, protection of rights, and the role of legal services authorities in ensuring fair and equitable treatment of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities. The session further emphasized how mental illness can affect a person's ability to understand legal proceedings and highlighted the need for specialized legal assistance in such cases.

# Advisor to CM reviews functioning of Royal Springs Golf Course

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani Wednesday visited the Royal Springs Golf Course at Cheshma Shahi Srinagar and took a meeting to review the overall functioning of the Golf Course. The Advisor was briefed about the civil works taken up under the capital expenditure budget earmarked for RSGC during the financial year 2025-26 and other works taken up for upkeep and maintenance of the Golf Course.

During the meeting the Advisor gave instructions on measures to be taken for



restoration and renovation of the Golf Course, upgradation of facilities, organizing of Golf tournaments and popularizing of Golf among students and those interested in the sport.

During his visit, the Advisor unveiled a fresh fleet of Golf Carts procured by RSGC for the members of the Club and visitors,

marking a significant addition to its infrastructure. These golf carts are expected to generate revenue for RSGC besides enhancing both operational efficiency and visitor experience.

Being eco-friendly and pollution-free, the golf carts align with sustainable practices and contribute to maintaining the

pristine environment of the golf course. While primarily intended to facilitate golfers, these carts will also be made available for tourists and other visitors, enabling them to comfortably explore and enjoy the scenic locales of the golf course.

The meeting was attended by Secretary RSGC Haris Ahmed Handoo and other senior officers. The member-golfers present on the occasion also briefed the Advisor about various issues requiring attention of the management and the Governing Body for further improvement of facilities at this world famous Golf Course.

# DIPR Shopian conducts Photo Exhibition at Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian Wednesday conducted a photo exhibition here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian highlighting the developmental achievements of departments of the district



during the year 2025-26.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz inaugurated the Exhibition in presence of Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Shaakor Ahmed Dar, CEO, Bashir Ahmad Shah, CAO, Mohd Rafiq, DIO Shopian, Showkat Hussain

and other officers, officials and public.

The exhibition displayed a wide range of photographs depicting development achievements of the departments under various schemes, government welfare programmes and employment interventions, artistic and cultural

traditions, conduct of festivals, events and other important public awareness campaigns and initiatives organised during the year 2025-26.

Officials and public visited the exhibition with keen interest and termed the exhibition informative and inspiring.

# Dir Agri inaugurates 5th phase of Vegetable Seedling Distribution Drive



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday inaugurated the fifth phase of the Vegetable Seedling Distribution Drive at the Kitchen Garden Premises, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Kashmir appreciated the dedicated efforts of the officers and officials of the Kitchen Garden and Hi-Tech Poly House sections for ensuring the availability of quality vegetable seedlings to the farming community round the year. He stated that the department has been largely successful in achieving this objective and affirmed that this endeavour will continue with full momentum until all set targets are met. 8.5 lakh seedlings are expected to be

distributed on 5th cycle across division.

Highlighting the immense potential and importance of vegetable cultivation in the Kashmir region, Sartaj Ahmad Shah urged educated youth to come forward and adopt vegetable cultivation as a viable and promising career option.

He emphasized that in the present scenario of climate change and global economic challenges, strengthening vegetable cultivation can play a major role in ensuring economic security for the farming community. "Our climatic conditions are among the best in the country for the cultivation of both traditional and exotic vegetables. To fully channelize this potential, a collaborative approach is needed where both the farming community and the Agriculture Department work hand in hand," he added.

# Plantation Drive held at KVK Anantnag under Bhumi Suposhan Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** A plantation drive was successfully organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-K in collaboration with social forestry Anantnag under the Bhumi Suposhan Abhiyan, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and soil health conservation.

The programme was graced by the Chief Guest, Prof. Rihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, who emphasized the importance of tree plantation in enhancing ecological balance and improving soil fertility. She encouraged farmers, youth, and students to actively participate in such initiatives for a greener and healthier future.

The Special Guest, Gazalla Abdulla, DFO social forestry Anantnag highlighted the role of social forestry in community development and stressed the need for collective efforts in afforestation and natural resource conservation.



Dr. Ishtiyaq A Khan in his address, briefed the gathering about KVK Anantnag, SKUAST-K's continuous efforts and commitment towards environmental conservation. He reiterated that the KVK is actively promoting plantation drives across Anantnag district as part of its mission to safeguard the environment and enhance green cover.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Government School Kreeri, who actively took part in the plantation activities and learned about the importance of environmental stewardship at a young age.

# Forest Department conducts Plantation Drive at DPL Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** A plantation drive was conducted Wednesday at District Police Lines (DPL) Shopian under the flagship initiative "Green J&K Drive 2026" by the Forest Department in collaboration with District Police Shopian.

The drive was formally kick-started by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhary, in the presence of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Shopian, Qamar Rashid Khan, DySP (DAR) Shopian, Mohammad Ashraf along with other senior officers and officials.



The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from police personnel and forest department staff, who collectively planted a significant number of conifer saplings within the premises of District Police Lines Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion,

SSP Shopian emphasized the importance of environmental protection and highlighted the role of such initiatives in combating climate change, improving air quality, and enhancing the overall ecological balance of the region.

He appreciated the joint efforts of the Police Department and the Forest Department in organizing the drive and encouraged continued participation in such green initiatives.

Divisional Forest Officer Shopian in his address, reiterated that such plantation drives will continue in the future as part of sustained efforts to increase green cover across the district. He further informed that the Forest Department will also undertake free distribution of plant saplings among the general public to encourage community participation in afforestation and environmental conservation activities.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER ANANTNAG**  
 PAPIBAL, MOMINABAD, ASHAJIPORA,

**Subject:- Final Seniority List of Junior Laboratory/Dental/X-Ray/Theatre Technicians of District Cadre Anantnag.**

**(NOTIFICATION)**

Whereas, this office has prepared the Final Seniority Lists of Junior Laboratory/Dental/X-Ray/Theatre Technicians of District Cadre Anantnag on the basis of 1st and 2nd Tentative Seniority Lists issued vide Circular No. Est/CMO/Tech/25/9101-13 dated 16-12-2025, Est/BMO/Tech/26/10141-53 dated 08-01-2026, and Est/CMO/Tech/26/12464-76 dated 09-03-2026, respectively, for wide publicity;

Whereas, representations received against the above-mentioned tentative seniority lists were duly considered and disposed of on merit;

Now, therefore, the Final Seniority Lists of the said categories have been finalized and circulated to all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) subordinate to this office through hard copies as well as via their official email addresses for information and necessary action;

Whereas, this notification is also being published in two leading newspapers of the Kashmir Valley through the Joint Director, Information Department, Kashmir, for general information.

No:- Est/CMO/Tech/26/12834-46  
 Dated:- 18/03/2026

DIPK-12140-25  
 DT: 25/03/2026

Chief Medical Officer  
 Anantnag

**UT GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER BUDGAM.**

**Subject:- 2nd Tentative District Cadre Seniority List of Jr X.ray Technicians (2210)**

**Reference:- Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:-DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024, and also Est-5th/DHSK/NG/7248-55 Dated: 12-11-2025.**

**CIRCULAR**

On the basis of information received from subordinate offices and as per the available records in this office, 1st Tentative Seniority List of Jr X-ray Technicians (2210) of the district was issued vide this office circular NO: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/18492-518 Dated: 16.02.2026, which was circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs, and also published in the local newspapers for inviting objections.

Whereas, in response, some representations have been received and same have been examined and corrected after verification of the documents.

Now the 2nd Tentative seniority list of Jr X.ray Technicians (2210) is circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs for inviting objections, if any, and also in case any such employee is left out the concerned DDOs shall furnish his/her complete biodata along with documentary evidence in order to include his/her name at the appropriate place/serial within 05 days positively from the date of publication of this notification in the newspapers and website.

No: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/ 9705-730  
 Dated: 24/03/2026

DIPK-12113-25  
 DT: 25/03/2026

Chief Medical Officer,  
 Budgam

# Dr. Mandaviya inaugurates Khelo India Tribal Games; highlights rich tribal sporting talent

IAN S

**RAIPUR:** The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, addressed the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026, which commenced on Wednesday across three cities in Chhattisgarh and will continue until April 3.

Dr. Mandaviya stated that the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026 marks a historic beginning for Chhattisgarh as a permanent host, with the Games set to be organised annually across regions, including Bastar, Sarguja, and Raipur. The Minister stressed that talent exists beyond urban centres, including in tribal regions, coastal areas, and remote parts of the country.



“Sporting talent is not limited to metropolitan cities; it thrives in tribal villages and across diverse regions of the country. The introduction of the Khelo India Tribal Games aims to identify and promote this untapped potential,” he said.

Emphasising that sports go beyond medals, the Minister noted that games instil discipline, balance, and life lessons, aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to promote a strong sporting culture in the country. He further stated that SAI coaches will be present at the games venue and will scout talent through structured pathways, including Khelo India Centres and Centres of Excellence. Athletes will receive advanced training to compete at national and international levels.

Referring to icons such as Olympian Deepika Kumari, the Minister highlighted the longstanding contribution of tribal communities to India’s sporting legacy. Dr. Mandaviya further stated that KITG will not only promote sports but also boost tourism and regional development, drawing participants and attention from across the country and globally in the coming years.

Outlining the importance of transparency and good governance, the Minister said that reforms such as the Sports Governance Bill and the upcoming Khelo Bharat Niti aim to ensure fair selection processes, promote inclusivity, and provide greater opportunities for women and tribal athletes. He further noted that performance must always be the top priority and that selection processes will be fair, transparent, and monitored.

The Minister also expressed confidence in India’s strong performance at upcoming international events, including the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games, stating that India will deliver its best-ever performance at the Asian Games. He observed that over the past decade, India has witnessed a significant transformation in sports, driven by a comprehensive and structured approach. Initiatives such as Fit India and Khelo India have worked in tandem to broaden participation and nurture talent across the country.

Dr. Mandaviya reiterated India’s aspiration to host the Olympic Games in 2036 and achieve a top 10 global sporting rank by then, with a vision to be among the top five sporting nations by 2047.

# India set to begin SAFF U20 campaign against rivals Pakistan

IAN S

**MALE (MALDIVES):** The India U20 men’s team will begin their SAFF U20 Football Championship campaign with a high-octane clash against Pakistan at the National Football Stadium in Malé on Thursday. An India-Pakistan encounter always carries added intensity, and with crucial group-stage stakes on the line, the opening fixture promises both drama and significance.



Understandably, the Young Colts arrived in the Maldives capital on Monday and quickly shifted their focus to preparations for the tournament. Placed in Group B alongside Pakistan and Bangladesh, India face a tight schedule in a three-team group where every point is vital. India will meet Bangladesh in their second match on March 28. With only two fixtures in the group, a single victory could prove decisive in securing a place in the semi-finals.

keep their knockout hopes alive. India, therefore, can expect a determined opponent, making the contest rather tricky despite their strong credentials.

India U20 coach Mahesh Gawali emphasised starting the tournament on a positive note. “India versus Pakistan is always a big match, but for us, we are treating it like any other game. Every match is important for us. So the focus is on starting the tournament well and making a positive beginning. At the same time, we need to be cautious and play with composure and discipline,” Gawali said ahead of the match.

The stakes were heightened further after Bangladesh defeated Pakistan 2-0 in the first Group B encounter. That result means Pakistan enter Thursday’s match needing a win to

the age-group competition. The Blue Colts are four-time champions, having lifted the title in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2025. That history brings both confidence and expectation, and the current squad will look to continue the winning tradition. “We do have some experienced players in the squad, but this is a fresh start for everyone. Football does not go by history. What you do on the day matters. So, we have to stay focused and perform well,” said Gawali.

The championship also serves as preparation for the upcoming AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers, but the focus within the Indian camp remains firmly on the immediate challenge. “We want to take it match by match and do our best

in this competition,” said Gawali.

Pakistan, meanwhile, are known for their physical style of play and will aim to use their strength to disrupt India’s rhythm. At the same time, many of their players are only in their second international appearance, which means the side lacks experience at this level. “Pakistan are a decent side. They gel well and have good young players. But we will try to give our best,” said Gawali.

Pakistan coach Shahzad Anwar remains wary about the challenge India will pose on Thursday. “Our boys will be playing their second international match, and India are a tough and experienced team. So, you can understand,” Anwar said.

# IFL 2025-26: Namdhari SC edge past Real Kashmir FC for their first win of the season

IAN S

**SRINAGAR:** Seilenthang Lotjem’s all-important second-half strike helped Namdhari Sports Club edge past Real Kashmir FC 1-0 for their first win of the season in the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the TRC Stadium in Srinagar on Wednesday.

The victory lifted Namdhari SC to sixth in the table with six points from five matches, while Real Kashmir FC remain in ninth in the table with two points from the same number of matches. Namdhari goalkeeper Niraj Kumar was adjudged the Man of the Match.

Real Kashmir FC Assistant Coach Masood Maqbool made two changes to their starting XI for their first home match of the season, with Shahid Nazir

coming into defence in place of the suspended Habib Fofana, while Marius Obekop started in attack ahead of Seijoseph Haokip. Namdhari SC Head Coach Harpreet Singh, meanwhile, made one change, as Lamine Moro returned from suspension to replace Manbir Singh.

Neither side was able to assert control in midfield during the opening exchanges, resulting in frequent turnovers in the first half hour. Set-pieces proved the most promising avenue for both teams, with Real Kashmir relying on long throw-ins and Namdhari looking to capitalise on their free-kick deliveries and corner kicks.

The only real moments of concern for either goalkeeper in the half came from isolated efforts at both ends. Najib Ibrahim tested Real Kashmir goal-



keeper Furkan Ahmad Dar with a low strike from the edge of the box, while at the other end, Niraj Kumar was called into action after Karan Kumar

Sharma’s miscued clearance looped goalwards, forcing the goalkeeper into an acrobatic save.

The best chance of the half fell to the home side from another delivery into the box. Niraj Kumar came off his line but could only manage a weak punch, with the ball looping

back into a dangerous area. Ahteeb Ahmad Dar attempted a bicycle kick that looked destined for the net, but Karan Sharma produced a crucial clearance off the line with his chest, ensuring both sides went into the break goalless.

The Snow Leopards began the second half with renewed intent, enjoying better control in midfield and looking more threatening in the opposition half. Shedrack Charles came closest to breaking the deadlock, but his effort rattled the crossbar and went out.

Namdhari took the lead just after the hour mark through Seilenthang Lotjem. Substitute Manbir Singh delivered a cross to the far post, and Lotjem timed his late run into the six-yard box to perfection, slipping in unnoticed before calmly slotting the

ball past the goalkeeper. Real Kashmir stepped up the pressure in search of an equaliser after falling behind. Shedrack Charles tested the goalkeeper with a well-struck effort that was parried away to safety, and moments later, Niraj Kumar was called into action again, reacting sharply to keep out Kamal Issah’s free-kick, which took an awkward bounce in the danger area.

The visitors held on to their slender lead until the final whistle, weathering sustained pressure from the home side. Despite Real Kashmir introducing fresh legs and increasing the intensity inside the box, Namdhari defended resolutely to shut down the attacks and condemn the hosts to another winless outing this season.

# ‘Subpar finish disappointing after strong comeback’: Neesham reflects on NZ’s 3-2 series loss to South Africa

IAN S

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Stand-in skipper Jimmy Neesham admitted that New Zealand’s below-par performances in the final games cost them the T20I series against the South Africa cricket team, after the hosts went down by 33 runs in the decider at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Wednesday.

Chasing 188, New Zealand could only manage 154/8 despite brief resistance in the middle overs, as South Africa sealed the five-match series 3-2.

Reflecting on the campaign, Neesham said the team did well to bounce back after an early setback but failed to maintain momentum towards the end. “It was obviously a tough start, and then we

fought back in games two and three to go 2-1 up. But unfortunately, a couple of subpar performances at the back end of the series are disappointing,” he said.

The all-rounder also highlighted the demanding international calendar, with New Zealand players featuring across formats since October. “It’s been a long summer. It’s been going right from October. I’m looking forward to my six days at home since then. That’s just the nature of scheduling these days—there’s cricket on all year round,” he added.

With several first-choice players unavailable, Neesham emphasised the positives of giving opportunities to younger players during the series. “It was a good opportunity with a few guys absent to

blood some young players. We saw some good experiences gained, some tough lessons, and some good moments. I think everyone who came in will take away something to make themselves better,” he said.

Assessing the areas of concern, Neesham pointed out that fielding lapses, particularly in the series finale, hurt the team. “I thought we batted and bowled okay, but the fielding was probably a little bit below par, especially tonight. Under lights, it’s never easy, but that’s an area we can improve,” he noted.

He also credited South Africa’s bowling unit for challenging New Zealand’s batters. “They brought a quality bowling attack. It gave a few of our batters a good taste of what the next level is like,” Neesham concluded.



**INOX LIVE the MOVIE SRINAGAR**

# Movies SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY, 26 MARCH**

**DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)**  
HINDI - 12:30 PM, 01:30 PM, 05:00 PM, 06:00 PM  
HINDI ATMOS - 10:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 07:00 PM

**PROJECT HAIL MARY (U/A)**  
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